2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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What important issues are facing our community today, in your opinion?

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. The "education trigger" would also allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
 - The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Duncan discussing legislation.



Rep. Duncan honoring a fallen police officer.

Helping Our Young Drivers

Senate Enrolled Act 16 limits distractions for our newest, most inexperienced drivers by banning drivers under 18 from using a cell phone or texting, except for emergency calls, while driving. It also sets limits on when they may carry passengers.

Public Safety Training in CPR and Heimlich Maneuver

It is imperative that our first-responders have up-to-date cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Heimlich Maneuver training. Because of that, I authored a bill this session that will require law enforcement personnel to receive up-to-date training.

Protecting Your Identity

Hoosiers now have more identity theft protection through the state's Identity Theft Unit, which will investigate complaints and assist victims in the event their identity is stolen. Identity theft was the top consumer complaint to the Federal Trade Commission in 2008.

Autism Training in Public Safety

The current curriculum offered by the Indiana
Law Enforcement Academy provides training in
responding to individuals with certain disabilities
and afflictions, but not autism. I supported a
bill that makes autism training a requirement
because I believe it is imperative for lawenforcement officers to be
properly trained.

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Information for

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